

SUNSHINE TOUR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS

By entering a competition or attending the showground, you are deemed to have read and agreed to the General Rules & Conditions, and you agree that you will ensure that any party attending with you is made aware of these General Rules & Conditions and that they agree to be bound by them.

At all times when engaging with the Sunshine Tour, whether in the process of making entries, communications, attending the show or discussing the show in any public forum including social media, entrants and competitors must act in good faith, in accordance with these rules, to promote the welfare of all horses attending the show and in the wider interests of the Sunshine Tour and that they must procure the agreement to do the same from any person who intends to attend the show with them.

If any competitor, participant, owner or attendee is found to have breached any provision of these rules, the organisers shall be entitled, at their discretion, to:-

- a) Issue a written or verbal warning.
- b) Disqualify them from competition, whether or not the relevant class has taken place and issue an appropriate re-placing of any class.
- c) Withhold or reclaim prizes awarded.
- d) Refuse their entries or suspend their entries.
- e) Cancel or suspend their membership for any period of time.
- f) Prohibit them from entering the showground or ask them to leave showground immediately.
- g) Apply any other sanction as deemed as appropriate by the organisers.

If any sanction is applied by the organisers which involves the disqualification, suspension or prohibition of a competitor, owner or horse, the relevant individual shall not be entitled to receive a refund of entry fees, membership costs or other expenses in any circumstances. There shall be no right of appeal.

Welfare, Safety & Conduct

1. The organisers of this events have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective, everyone must themselves take all reasonable precautions to avoid/prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers/stewards/security/judges/officials.
2. The organisers, their representatives, agents, employees, directors or helpers shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss suffered by owners, spectators, competitors, their horses, grooms, friends, vehicles or property however caused save that nothing in this clause will limit liability for anything which cannot legally be limited.
3. The horses' welfare is paramount, and the Sunshine Tour Show aspires to reflect best practice in the ethical training of all horses which compete on its Showgrounds. It is the responsibility of the owner / exhibitor to ensure that horses receive proper attention during their time on the showground and participation in competition. This embraces skilful equitation, effective equine husbandry, proper veterinary intervention, and adequate care at all times. All owners, competitors and other participants agree to observe high standards of equine welfare at all times when participating in the event and in particular to observe the British Equestrian Federation's Charter for the Horse.
4. Due consideration must be given for the animal's age, experience & fitness when entering and competing. Owners of young/inexperienced animals should consider the impact of journey time, unfamiliar surroundings, size of the showground and rings and the demands of the competition when selecting number/type of classes to participate in. The organisers reserve the right to limit the number and type of classes entered if doubts exist about the horse's welfare. Animals considered to be suffering from the demands of competition may be referred for veterinary assessment, withdrawn from further classes on one day or for the remainder of the competition.
5. Mistreatment of any animals will not be tolerated, including use of force or misuse of equipment, by any person. Any whip, spur, bridle, boot or other equipment used anywhere on the showground must comply with the relevant discipline's rule book and not be modified or misused. Animals deemed to be sick or lame may be referred for vet's inspection and/or not be allowed to compete or be ridden on the showground. Use of the whip, spur or bit as a means of punishment or in any way which is liable to cause discomfort to a horse or pony is not permitted. Any practice that could cause physical or mental distress or suffering to a horse or pony will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary sanctions.
6. Participants, (or their parents/guardians if under 18 years), must consider themselves competent to complete the activity for which they are entering. It is not the responsibility of the organisers to decide if a competitor is competent or their mount is suitable for the class. If the judge deems any rider or horse to be unsuitable / incompatible / unsafe to participate they will be asked to leave immediately.
7. All riders must be a suitable size and weight for the height/type of horse/pony for competition, warm up and exercise at any time on the showground. For guidance the rider should be no more than 20% of the horse's body weight. If doubt exists, the organisers decision is final. Any rider reasonably deemed to weigh more than 20% of the body weight of the horse, may, at the discretion of the of the organisers, be asked to dismount and will not be permitted to continue to compete, and will forfeit their entry fee.
8. A correctly fitting riding hat complying with current safety standards and safe footwear must be worn whilst mounted. Protective head gear is advised for all handlers/leaders and compulsory for Junior Handler classes. Body protectors for riders are strongly recommended for show jumping and compulsory for eventers challenges.
9. Vet, medic and farrier will be on-site during competition hours. Out of hours veterinary cover will be available, contact details will be available on site. All veterinary or farrier expenses must be paid direct to the vet/farrier in attendance.

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GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS CONTINUED

10. All competitors and anyone accompanying a competitor in any capacity (family, child, friend, helper, instructor, driver etc!) are expected to support the spirit of the Sunshine Tour as a fun, fair and inclusive event. Any rude, argumentative or abusive behaviour in person or online, to other competitors, spectators, judges, officials or stewards will not be tolerated and could result in being banned from the showground immediately or future entries being barred. If you encounter a problem during the show, please contact security or show staff immediately.
11. If you contravene any welfare or conduct rule that results in your right to compete being withdrawn, you will not be eligible for refunds.
12. All competitors or owners must hold third party insurance which will provide coverage for any accident occurring in respect of their horse or pony.
13. No competitor or owner must conduct themselves in a manner which could be considered as offensive or inappropriate.
14. No competitor or owner shall knowingly or not, permit any horse or pony to compete at the Sunshine Tour under the influence of a prohibited substance.
15. All participants of the Sunshine Tour agree to help in the protection of children or adults at risk by, amongst other things: -
 - a) respecting the rights, dignity and worth of everybody equally
 - b) recognising developmental needs and capacity of individuals
 - c) trying to avoid situations which could create risk or perception of risk to a child or an at risk adult
 - d) avoiding at all times making rude, suggestive or inappropriate comments in the presence of a child or an at risk adult or any form of inappropriate or unnecessary touching of a child or at risk adult
 - e) avoiding the taking of unnecessary photography or videography of children or at risk adults and ensure that any video or photography taken is stored securely and deleted when no longer needed

Media & Communication

1. Competitors and owners of horses/ponies competing at the Sunshine Tour agree to maintain their social media posts, comments and conversations in a fair and transparent manner.
2. The organisers reserve the right to monitor, intercept and review any media post relating to the Sunshine Tour, your participation and experience of the event.
3. Comments or posts about the Sunshine Tour should be clear that they represent a personal view and are not endorsed by the organiser.
4. Comments, images or posts published or shared must not be damaging to the name or reputation of the Sunshine Tour or deemed to be abusive, derogatory, threatening, misleading, obscene, discriminatory, scandalous or offensive to any Sunshine Tour competitor, official or volunteer. Any comment or post about the Sunshine Tour must be visible to the Sunshine Tour administrator and may be challenged and required to be removed. Participants should act responsibly, in good faith and using sound judgment when using social media to promote a respectful and positive online environment for show participants. Participants should not engage in online disputes or in forums which target an individual or group critically. Participants should respect the privacy of other participants when posting on social media and shall not share any information which has been shared to them in confidence or which may be deemed as sensitive. The Sunshine Tour and its organisers may require a participant to remove or alter a post, thread, comment or other data which is found to be in breach of these rules, and further disciplinary action may be taken.
5. Failure to maintain a reasonable and fair online communication about the Sunshine Tour may result in competitors' entries being cancelled or future entries being barred.
6. This event may be covered and featured by all types of media, including and not limited to journalists, reporters, television, radio and Sunshine Tour's own social media and news reports. Photos and videos taken at the event may be transmitted, printed and used by media and Sunshine Tour for an unlimited period. Competitors who do not wish images to be used by media should state this with their entry.

Eligibility & Entries

1. To be eligible to compete in any championship class, entrants must have qualified in the current qualification period and recorded their qualification/s. The correct entry fee must be received to be eligible to compete/participate.
2. Absolutely no substitutions of horse or rider are allowed in any championship class.
3. It is the responsibility of the competitor (or parent/guardian if under 18 years) to check if they are eligible to compete and that they comply with the rules applied to every class entered. Competitors must comply with restrictions applicable to their class on the day of championship. Horse and rider combinations who are found to have given false or inaccurate information to the organisers of the show whether expressly or impliedly, including by being over-qualified, under-qualified or having given inaccurate information including concerning age, name or qualification codes or status of the horse or rider shall be liable to have their entire entries and/or membership cancelled with no right to receive a refund and may be subject to further disciplinary proceedings pursuant to these rules.
4. The Sunshine Tour reserves the right to refuse an entry or refuse entry to the showground without having to state a reason.
5. In the event of insufficient entries, classes may be combined and judged as one class.
6. Riders who qualify for multiple levels of championship can compete in a maximum of 5 levels in show jumping, 3 levels in eventers challenge or 2 consecutive levels in dressage. If you qualify for more levels, you must relinquish the lowest level/s.

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GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS CONTINUED

7. Competitors must be 3 years old or over on the day of the championships, there's no upper age limit. Horses/ponies must be 4 years old or over to compete in ridden classes. Age of a horse or pony is taken from 1 January in the current year. Stallions are welcome provided they are ridden/handled by an experienced person, displaying appropriate tail ribbons, are well behaved and not causing a nuisance or danger to other competitors or their horses.

Refunds & Fees

1. We reserve the right to alter any part or the whole of the schedule at any time. In the event of a class being cancelled, refunds will be issued.

2. Withdrawals received up to the close of entries will be accepted and refunded. A reasonable admin fee may be deducted.

3. Notice of withdrawal or cancellation of entries, stabling, camping and/or fodder must be received in writing to the Sunshine Tour office by email info@sunshinetour.co.uk or by letter to Sunshine Tour HQ. Text, Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp messages or phone calls are not accepted as official withdrawal notification.

4. Competitors applying for a refund after close of entries must submit evidence verified by a hospital, doctor or vet certificate. Only a doctor or vet can provide evidence for a medical withdrawal. Correspondence from farriers, physios or other health professionals is not accepted. Only acute and recent medical conditions, traumas or illnesses will be accepted in applications for any refund. Pre-existing or chronic conditions will not be accepted for the purposes of generating a refund.

5. Refunds are considered on a case by case basis, within the following time limits: From close of entries Period 1 - Wednesday 19th to Monday 24th August up to 75% refund; Period 2 - Tuesday 25th to Monday 31st August up to 50% refund; Period 3 - Tuesday 1st to Monday 7th September up to 25% refund; Period 4 - Tuesday 8th September onwards no refund for any reason. Medical evidence to apply for a partial refund must be received by 30th September following the current show.

6. Bad weather - If weather or ground conditions are poor it is the responsibility of competitors to confirm that the event is running by checking website www.sunshinetour.co.uk on the evening before or on the morning of the competition. Every effort will be made to re-schedule, but in the event of the competition being cancelled, entry fees minus administration charge will be returned to competitors.

7. The organisers reserve the right, in their absolute discretion, to refuse an application or re-application for membership, qualification or entry, or to cancel a registration, qualification or entry save that no membership, qualification or entry will be refused in circumstances where it would be unlawful to do so. The organisers will not refuse participation in the Sunshine Tour due to a prospective participant's protected characteristic.

8. Competitors who fail to pay such fees as are due to the Sunshine Tour whether for entry, stabling or other costs agree that the Sunshine Tour can recover from them all reasonable costs and expenses (including legal fees) in recovering such sums due.

9. All amendments or dispensations pursuant to these rules or any competition schedule must be confirmed in writing by an organiser of the show. The Sunshine Tour is committed to ensuring the principles of equality of opportunity for all participants. Participants who seek adjustments or accommodation in respect of any show rule or practice on account of a disability are encouraged to contact the show organisers ahead of the show.

Competition Rules & Prizes

1. Rules for guidance: Dressage: British Dressage; Show Jumping: British Showjumping; Showing: The Showing Register; Eventers: British Eventing & Sunshine Tour. All decisions are subject to Sunshine Tour rulings and might not reflect exact conditions of national rule books. In the case of any conflict of rules, the rules of the Sunshine Tour will take precedence. All competitors are deemed to have read, understood the rules of the relevant governing body.

2. Dispensation for exception to rules must be ratified by the relevant society (BD, BS, BE), submitted with entry and presented to the secretary and steward on the day of competition, prior to competing.

3. It is the competitors responsibility to compete in approved tack & clothing. Spot checks may be carried out to check for compliance with relevant rules (BD, BS, BE). Competitors found to be competing with 'illegal' tack may be disqualified even if they have already competed and will receive no refund of entry fees.

4. Objections: Sunshine Tour uses expert judges, and their decision is to be respected. Any objections about the conduct of classes must be brought to the organiser's attention within 60 minutes of the incident and we will make every effort to resolve problems. If we cannot resolve the problem and you wish to lodge a formal complaint and request further investigation, you should lodge your complaint on the day of competition in writing with the secretary and supported by a £50 deposit.

5. Video evidence is not usually admissible to support a complaint. We will view video evidence as part of an investigation, but in the event of a discrepancy between the judge's view and a video view, the judge's must take priority. The Sunshine Tour will convene a committee to determine a complaint, who will deliberate in private. There will be no right of appeal against the decision of that committee.

6. Prizes stated in the schedule are subject to alteration or substitution. Prize winners may have their eligibility checked prior to prize collection and some prizes may require collection at a later date or incur postage costs. In the event of insufficient entries some prizes will be withheld.

Showground Rules & Security

1. Whilst on the showground, all horse/ponies must wear a bridle and display their correct competitor number. This applies at all times on the showground, even walking in-hand or exercise/familiarisation. You're not required to display your competitor number in stable field or parking area.

2. Horse passports must be brought to the showground. If you are travelling separately, the passport should be with the horse. Passports must be available for inspection upon arrival, at any time if requested by security or show staff in the parking area.

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GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS CONTINUED

3. Horses/ponies must have an up-to-date annual equine influenza vaccination or have completed at least TWO initial vaccination injections. In either case, the last injection/booster must not be given less than 10 days before competition.
4. Horse Walks: only walking allowed in the horse walk. No holding horses or stopping to chat with friends! No trotting or cantering.
5. All dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Owners who allow their dogs to run loose on the showground, stable area or parking areas will be required to remove them from the premises immediately.
6. No access to Hickstead's international arena including the surround and the Derby bank at any time, day or night, not even people on foot!
7. Security are on duty 24 hours a day. Any incident should be reported to WH Security or Sunshine Tour show secretary or show director immediately. 24 hour contact 07904 898696 (only for emergencies between 9pm and 6am).
8. Good conduct and reasonable behaviour is expected at all times. WH Security have the right to summon police/evict/detain persons deemed to be behaving in an unreasonable/abusive/dangerous manner. Any individual attending the showground who is found to have acted in an abusive or uncivil manner towards any member of the organisers staff or contractors will be liable to immediate removal from the showground and may be subject to further disciplinary measures pursuant to these rules.

Bicycles, Scooters & Mobility Vehicles

1. Electric scooters are strictly forbidden anywhere at Hickstead. Persons found to be using a battery charged scooter will have the scooter impounded until departure.
2. Mobility vehicles, pushchairs and pull-along trolleys are permitted on the showground and in the stable field. Bicycles are permitted in the stable field but not on the showground.

Stabling, Camping & Staying Overnight

1. Competitors and their friends & family are permitted to stay overnight in their horsebox or trailer for free if their horse is being stabled at the showground. Additional vehicles for staying overnight, e.g. campervan, caravan, additional horsebox etc. will incur a charge per night.
2. Good neighbour, good conduct and considerate noise levels are expected in the camping area. Noise should be kept to a minimum between 11pm and 6am. Campers found to be causing noise or nuisance to their neighbours may be evicted by security.
3. No open fires. Small generators are permitted; only silent generators can be left on after 11pm and operated before 6am.
4. On site toilets and showers are available. Do not empty caravan/lorry toilet contents into the public toilets, an Elsan point is provided.
5. Dogs must be kept on a lead in stables and camping areas. If kept under control, dogs can be off lead in outside fields away from camping & stables. All dog mess must be bagged and disposed of in a bin. Dogs deemed to be causing a nuisance should be reported to WH security.
6. Horse passports must be presented to the stable manager when claiming your stable.
7. Cash deposit per stable is required upon arrival (see current Stabling schedule for details). Deposit will be returned on departure provided stable has been mucked out **and your booking slip returned**. Your stable may be inspected, or you may be asked to provide proof. If your stable is not mucked out when you arrive, inform the stable manager immediately.
8. The amount of bedding left in stables by the previous occupant varies, some stables may be deep litter and under bedding may be damp in temporary stables. You are advised to bring or pre-purchase some bedding to freshen up / add depth to the bed. Shavings or flax bedding only.

The organisers reserve the right to revise and amend these rules.



Join our WhatsApp group to receive all the **IMPORTANT** show updates for Sunshine Tour 2026.

Joining information released shortly before the show on Sunshine socials.



Don't forget to check your results!
Access them online through our site,
sunshinetourresults.co.uk

 Sunshine Tour